

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NEA-10 SSO-00 CCO-00 EUR-25

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-14 PRS-01 NSC-10

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NEA:RPDAVIES

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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R O 211943Z DEC 73 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249029

TOSEC 366 ZFF5 GENEVA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, EF

SUBJ: PALESTINIAN DEMARCHES TO HOUPHOUET

REF: (A) STATE 246232, (B) ABIDJAN 8591

1. ASSTSECY NEWSOM AND NEA DEPASSTSECY DAVIES RECEIVED
IVORIAN AMBASSADOR AHOUEA DEC. 19. AHOUEA REPEATED VIRTUALLY
SAME MESSAGE REPORTED REFTEL (B), WITH FOLLOWING AMPLI-
FICATION:

A) FIVE MAN GROUP LED BY SARTAWI INCLUDED VP OF PLO
UNIONS, PLO DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, COMMANDER OF
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NAVAL FORCES, AND THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE FROM DAKAR.

B) HOUPHOUET WISHES TO SEE AMBASSADOR ROOT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO ABIDJAN FROM DAKAR, WHERE HE WILL HAVE CONFERRED WITH SENGHOR "AND PROBABLY PLO REP THERE."

C) PLO PURPOSE IN USING HOUPHOUET WAS TO CHANNEL MESSAGE TO "EUROPEANS" AS WELL AS US. HENCE EARLIER CONVOCAATION OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

D) HE SAID BOUMEDIENNE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF PLO'S POSITION AS DESCRIBED REFTEL (B). UPON QUESTIONING, HE SAID THAT SARTAWI'S GROUP HAD NOT VISITED ALGIERS ON THIS TRIP BUT THAT TALKS HAD PROBABLY OCCURRED IN THE COURSE OF THE RECENT ALGIERS ARAB MEETING. HE DID NOT KNOW BOUMEDIENNE'S REACTION TO THE PLO POSITION.

E) ARAFAT CLAIMS THAT THE EXTREME LEFT WING OF THE PLO ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 5 PER CENT OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THAT ON THE EVES OF EACH ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT BY PEACEFUL MEANS THAT GROUP DOES SOMETHING TO EMBARRASS HIM. ARAFAT CHARGED THAT THE USSR AND IRAQ SUPPORT THE EXTREMIST GROUPS, AND HE ASSURED THE IVORIANS THAT HE WAS NEITHER COMMUNIST NOR PRO-COMMUNIST. SARTAWI TOLD THE IVORIANS THAT ARAFAT WOULD WORK TO KEEP THE SOVIETS OUT OF THE MEDITER-RANEAN.

2. NEWSOM THANKED AHOUA AND SAID THAT HE KNEW THE SECRETARY WOULD WANT AHOUA TO CONVEY HIS THANKS TO HOUPHOUET. MESSAGE WAS OF INTEREST AND WE WERE ALL LOOKING TO THE UPCOMING GENEVA TALKS TO SORT OUT THESE VERY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS.

3. DAVIES REPEATED US APPRECIATION FOR MESSAGE, WHICH HE CALLED OF GREAT INTEREST. HE NOTED THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION WILL BE ADDRESSED ONCE CONFERENCE UNDERWAY.

4. NEWSOM ENDED MEETING BY NOTING THAT, WITH OPENING OF CONFERENCE, CONTACTS ON THIS FRONT WILL SHIFT TO GENEVA. RUSH

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